

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph at page 2, lines 8-16 has been amended as follows:

--Further, when ~~[[a]]~~ time elapses in a state in which ~~the~~ a large amount of ink ~~is deposits~~ deposited on the nozzle surface, there is a possibility that the ink in the vicinity of the nozzles enters the recording head through the nozzles, from which a problem of color mixture arises in ink jet recording apparatuses using a plurality of colors. As a result, colors are set erroneously, and it is difficult to execute proper recording.--

The paragraph at page 2, lines 17-25 has been amended as follows:

--To remove the remaining ink, it is also possible to wipe it. When, however, a large amount of ink remains, a large amount of ink is also removed by the wiping operation, which requires an additional means for holding the removed ink. Further, when the large amount of ink remains, there is a possibility that the ink scatters by the wiping operation. ~~Therefor~~ Therefore, the absorbing member in the cap is an effective means for minimizing the remaining ink.--

The paragraph at page 4, lines 23 and 24 has been amended as follows:

--FIG. 3 is ~~an~~ a detailed exploded perspective view showing a cap of FIG.

1;--

The paragraph starting at page 10, line 25, and ending at page 11, line 18 has been amended as follows:

--A suction port 3a and an atmosphere communication hole 3c are opened through the bottom of the absorbing member chamber 28 of the cap 3, and a suction port 3b and an atmosphere communication hole 3d are opened through the bottom of the absorbing member chamber 29. The tubes 12 and 13 are connected to the suction ports 3a and 3b, respectively, and tubes 36 are connected to the atmosphere communication holes 3c and 3d at ~~one~~ first ends. When the tube pump executes the suction operation, inks are suctioned from the suction ports 3a and 3b. When the atmosphere communication holes 3c and 3d are opened at this time, air is replenished through the atmosphere communication holes 3c and 3d, thereby the interior of the cap 3 is kept at atmospheric pressure. Therefore, the inks in the cap and in the absorbing members can be discharged without drawing out any ink from the nozzles. When the atmosphere communication holes 3c and 3d are closed, inks can be suctioned from the nozzles because no atmospheric air is replenished.--

The paragraph at page 18, lines 3-8 has been amended as follows:

--Although a gap is formed over the entire region between the first absorbing portion 33 and the bottom of the absorbing member chamber 28, a problem of defective idle suction does not arise as long as the second absorbing portion 40 is in intimate contact with the suction port 3a.--

The paragraph at page 20, lines 13-25 has been amended as follows:

--Further, the present invention can be freely embodied regardless of the number of the recording heads and can be applied to a color ~~recording~~ ink jet recording apparatus employing a plurality of recording heads each using a different color ink, to a gradation ~~recording~~ ink jet recording apparatus employing a plurality of recording heads each using an ink having the same color and a different density, and further to an ink jet recording apparatus arranged by combining the above ink jet recording apparatuses, in addition to an ink jet recording apparatus employing a single recording head, and the present invention can achieve the same effect.--